

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 16-30 are pending in this application. Original Claims 1-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 16-30 are added herein. Claims 1, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,397,209 to Reed et al. (herein "Reed") in view of U.S. patent application publication 2001/0025288 to Yanase et al. (herein "Yanase"). Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Reed in view of Yanase, U.S. patent 5,634,051 to Thomson, and U.S. patent 6,009,442 to Chen et al. (herein "Chen").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

First, claims 1-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 16-30 are presented for examination. New claims 16-30 have been written to clarify features from original claims 1-15 and are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

Each of new claims 16-30 clarify that "a plurality of summary information" is created from document data; new independent claim 16 specifically reciting "wherein the plurality of the summary information are combinations of the extracted summary elements", the other new independent claims reciting a similar feature. New claims 16-30 also clarify that the plurality of summary information is linked with a plurality of corresponding descriptions in document data. The above-noted claim features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The primary reference to Reed describes classifying documents using predetermined keywords. In the system of Reed one document is created from one summary.

Yanase is directed to a device and method for presenting news information. Yanase specifically performs the following functions. First news information distributed by mail is broken down into articles, a similarity degree among the articles is calculated, a group is created with articles of high similarity degree, articles with high topicality degree are selected from each group and presented to the user, and the entire articles are displayed when the summary of the news information is clicked on.

Thomson is directed to an information management system in which a summary of documents is generated and in which the documents are characterized. Thomson includes a search function, but not a narrow-down search function.

Chen is directed to a computer-based document management system in which an electronic document clip is created, and a user interface of the electronic document management is improved. In Chen summary information of the electronic document is also extracted.

New claims 16-30 as currently written distinguish over each of the previously cited prior art references in the following respects.

First, the new claims 16-30 clarify “generating a plurality of summary information of the document data to be analyzed, wherein the plurality of the summary information are combinations of the extracted summary elements”, as specifically recited in new independent claim 16 and as similarly recited in the other new independent claims.

In contrast to such a feature set forth in new claims 16-30, in each of the cited references one piece of summary information is created with respect to one electronic document. The claims as currently written require a different operation.

Further, in each of new claims 16-30 a plurality of corresponding descriptions in the document data and the plurality of the summary information are linked. With such an operation, when a size of a data document is large, or when a number of summary information is extracted, a user can easily determine which summary information corresponds to which description of the document data.

In contrast to such claimed features, in each of the cited references one electronic document corresponds to a single piece of summary information. Further, in such systems in the applied art, as a result it may be difficult for a user to determine which contents of the summary information corresponds to which descriptions of the electronic documents.

In such ways, each of new claims 16-30 further distinguish over the applied art.

Further, applicants respectfully submit certain of the dependent claims even further distinguish over the applied art.

New dependent claims 19-25 and 28 further recite extracting required information by a narrowed-down search, which is performed based on a link result between documents added to be analyzed and the plurality of summary information. Further, new dependent claims 19-21 and 23-25 further recite features of (i) defining the hierarchy of each type of information, such as categories to which search keys, summary information, and document data belong; (ii) designating users information according to the hierarchical structure; and (iii) conducting a search.

The above-noted features recite in the dependent claims are believed to even further distinguish over the applied art.

With specific reference to new dependent claims 19-25 and 28, an additional search operation can be performed, which can function as a narrowed-down search, and which can be performed using an immediate preceding search result. None of the cited arts disclose or

suggest any such operations that can be utilized in a narrowed-down search as in the above-noted claims.

With respect to new dependent claims 19-21 and 23-25, each noted type of information is managed based on a hierarchal structure, and the user can specify and search the information using the hierarchal structure.

With such features a search ring can be narrowed in stages, and a narrowed-down search can be performed. As a result it may be more convenient for a user to consecutively view information related to a specified search word. A user can also search for and display information related to the search word.

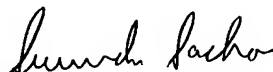
None of the cited arts teach or suggest the recited search method based on such a hierarchal structure. Thereby, new dependent claims 19-21 and 23-25 even further distinguish over the applied art.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit each of the claims as currently written distinguishes over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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